

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
STATE OF ARKANSAS**

**IN RE: COMPLIANCE WITH ADMINISTRATIVE
ORDER NO. 14, AS AMENDED, OF THE
ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT**

PROPOSED JUDICIAL PLAN

Pursuant to Administrative Order Number 14 of the Arkansas Supreme Court dated April 6, 2001, as amended, and the Per Curiam delivered July 3, 2003, the judges of the Third Judicial Circuit of the State of Arkansas submit the following plan for caseload management. This plan is submitted with the unanimous agreement of all the judges in this district, and in accordance with the directives of the Court in a Per Curiam opinion dated June 28, 2001.

The Third Judicial Circuit consists of Jackson, Lawrence, Randolph and Sharp counties. The three judges serving in this district are: Harold S. Erwin, Division I; Philip G. Smith, Division II; and Kevin N. King, Division III. Philip G. Smith is the elected Administrative Judge of the circuit.

1. There is established in each county of the Third Judicial Circuit the following subject matter divisions: Civil, Criminal, Domestic Relations, Juvenile and Probate. The creation of these divisions shall in no way limit the powers and duties of the judges as Circuit Judges. Judges shall not be assigned exclusively to particular subject matter division cases so as to preclude them from hearing other cases that may come before them.

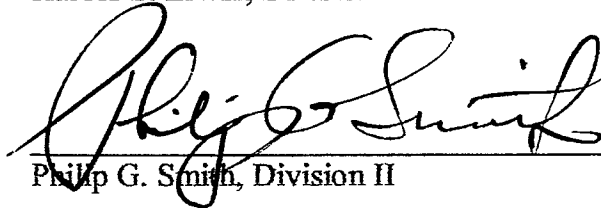
2. This plan is submitted to conform to the directive of the Supreme Court that caseload management shall be apportioned on an approximately equal basis among the judges.
3. The Division I judge will hear primarily criminal cases and civil cases, and drug court cases in Jackson County.
4. The Division II judge will hear primarily civil cases, domestic relations cases, probate cases, criminal cases, and drug court cases in Lawrence County and Randolph County.
5. The Division III judge will hear primarily juvenile cases, child support cases, Department of Human Services cases, probate cases and civil cases.
6. All judges in the circuit will hear involuntary commitment cases, which will be brought before the judge most convenient to the county needing the hearing.
7. All judges in the circuit may sign ex-parte Orders of Protection in domestic abuse cases. The Division III judge will primarily hear these cases.
8. All judges in the circuit will hear additional cases in each Division as the need arises. Cases originating in one Division shall be transferred to the other Division by the host judge prior to adjudication. This does not apply to uncontested matters, criminal pleas, domestic abuse hearings or commitment hearings. Any judge recusing in a case may transfer the case to any other judge in the circuit for final adjudication.
9. Each judge may schedule sessions to hear contested or uncontested cases in chambers on matters in any of the five subject matter divisions.

10. The judges of the Third Judicial District shall meet at the end of each calendar year to determine whether any adjustment in caseload assignments should be made from one Division to another in order to conform to the directives of the Supreme Court.

We, the judges of the Third Judicial Circuit, have discussed this plan for the allocation of cases among the three Divisions, giving due consideration to the relative time factors involved in various types of cases to be heard. We are in agreement that this plan divides the caseload approximately equally among the judges and will most efficiently serve the needs of the citizens of the Third Judicial Circuit.

Therefore, we respectfully submit this plan for judicial caseload allocation for your consideration and approval on this 1st day of July, 2009.

Harold S. Erwin, Division I



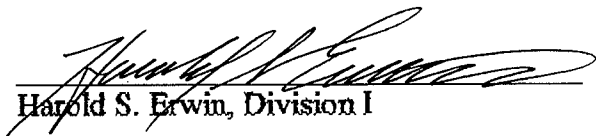
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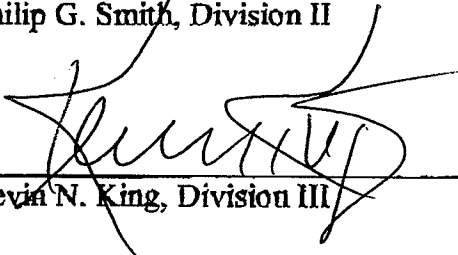
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